

HOUSE BILL NO. 114

INTRODUCED BY J. WITT

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT EXTENDING THE TIME FOR APPLYING FOR A HISTORIC RIGHT-OF-WAY ON STATE LAND; AMENDING SECTION 77-1-130, MCA, SECTION 5, CHAPTER 461, LAWS OF 1997, AND SECTION 6, CHAPTER 270, LAWS OF 2001; AND PROVIDING A TERMINATION DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 77-1-130, MCA, is amended to read:

"77-1-130. (Temporary) Recognition of historic right-of-way -- criteria for right-of-way deed -- conditions -- fees. (1) A person or a county may apply to the department for a historic right-of-way deed to provide access to the applicant's private property, to provide continuation of a county road, or to provide for authorization of existing utilities by filing an application with the department by October 1, ~~2006~~ 2011, on a form prescribed by the department. An application must be accompanied by:

(a) an application fee of \$50;

(b) a notarized affidavit:

(i) demonstrating that the applicant or the applicant's predecessor in interest used the right-of-way applied for before 1997 and that the use has continued to the present;

(ii) describing the purpose for which the right-of-way was used before 1997; and

(iii) demonstrating that the historic right-of-way applied for is the right-of-way demonstrated in the evidence provided in subsection (1)(c); and

(c) (i) aerial photographs taken by an agency of the United States demonstrating use of the right-of-way applied for; or

(ii) other evidence of the use of the right-of-way applied for.

(2) The department shall review an application and other evidence submitted pursuant to subsection (1) and shall issue a historic right-of-way deed in the name of the applicant if:

(a) the applicant pays the application fee provided in subsection (1)(a) and the fair market value of the historic right-of-way as provided in subsection (4);

(b) the applicant has shown by substantial evidence the matters required in subsections (1)(b) and

1 (1)(c)(i) or (1)(c)(ii);

2 (c) the department has, if necessary, made a field inspection of the right-of-way applied for; and

3 (d) the deed is approved by the board.

4 (3) A historic right-of-way deed issued in the name of the applicant must contain the description of the
5 property of the applicant to which it is appurtenant as provided in the application, and the right-of-way must
6 thereafter be considered appurtenant to that dominant estate. A deed may be assigned by the applicant to the
7 applicant's successor in interest with the approval of the department. The department may not withhold approval
8 for any reason other than that the use of the historic right-of-way is contrary to subsection (5).

9 (4) (a) At the time of issuing the historic right-of-way deed, the department shall collect from the
10 applicant the full market value of the acreage of the historic right-of-way.

11 (b) The amount collected pursuant to subsection (4)(a) must be deposited in the appropriate trust fund
12 established for receipt of income from the land over which a historic right-of-way is granted.

13 (5) If application is made in accordance with this section, a historic right-of-way deed must be issued
14 by the department, subject to the approval of the board, on the following terms:

15 (a) the right-of-way is only for the minimum width necessary, as negotiated by the department and the
16 applicant; and

17 (b) the right-of-way is only for the physical condition of the road or utility facilities existing on the date
18 the historic right-of-way deed is issued by the department.

19 (6) Issuance of a historic right-of-way deed pursuant to this section is exempt from the requirements
20 of Title 22, chapter 3, part 4, and Title 75, chapter 1, parts 1 and 2.

21 (7) The survey requirements of 77-2-102 may be waived by the department for the issuance of a historic
22 right-of-way deed if the department determines that there is sufficient information available to define the
23 boundaries of the right-of-way for the purposes of recording the easement.

24 (8) The department may attach conditions to a historic right-of-way deed necessary to ensure
25 compliance with this chapter.

26 (9) For the purposes of this section, "historic right-of-way deed" means a document issued by the
27 department granting to the applicant a nonexclusive easement over state land. (Terminates October 1, 2014
28 ~~2016--sec. 6, Ch. 270, L. 2004.~~)"

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30 **Section 2.** Section 5, Chapter 461, Laws of 1997, is amended to read:

"Section 5. Termination. [This act] terminates October 1, ~~2003~~ 2016."

Section 3. Section 6, Chapter 270, Laws of 2001, is amended to read:

"Section 6. Section 5, Chapter 461, Laws of 1997, is amended to read:

"Section 5. Termination. [This act] terminates October 1, ~~2003~~ 2011 2016."

NEW SECTION. **Section 4. Termination.** [Section 1] terminates October 1, 2016.

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